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GLEANINGS

FROM

PARKER RECORDS

A. D. 1271 TO 1893

BY

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HAVERHILL, MASS:

PRESS OF CHASE BROTHERS.

1894



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P 24
1894

THE HISTORY OF THE
BURKE FAMILY
FROM THE EARLIEST
RECORDS TO THE PRESENT



*"He only deserves to be remembered by posterity who treasures
up and preserves the history of his ancestors."*

— BURKE.

B. K.
Aug. 11. 1894
B.

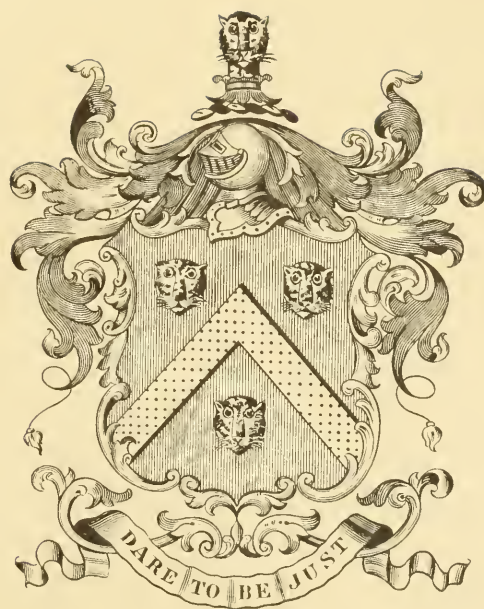


PREFACE.


The following hastily prepared pages are collected from various sources merely to preserve some of the more important facts relating to the family of Parkers, for the use of my own relatives and friends. It is hoped that these items may be the beginning of a book which shall more clearly set forth the interesting and honorable records of the family, not only in this country, but in England.

WILLIAM THORNTON PARKER, M. D.

GROVELAND, MASS., March, 1893.



ARMS OF PARKER.



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GLEANINGS FROM PARKER RECORDS.

DESCENDANTS of nearly all the most ancient and celebrated houses in England are to be found in this country. The Old Dominion was settled principally by Cavaliers, while the New England Colonies were founded by Parliamentary refugees. One great source of the unfriendly feeling manifested by the South toward the North was undoubtedly, the lingering prejudice of the old Cavalier spirit against Republican roundheadism.

Large numbers of emigrants from the counties of Essex, Kent, and Middlesex arrived in America, and sojourning for a time in Boston and its vicinity, finally settled in Massachusetts, Southern Connecticut and Rhode Island. Most of these people were of condition, well educated and possessed of property, who, "disgusted with the rule of Cromwell and his fanatics, sought an asylum where the profession of the doctrine of the old non-conforming creed would not expose them to persecution and peril." A glance at the names of the principal settlers in the New England States would satisfy the most prejudiced Virginian that these families have as good claim to "gentle blood" as any Lee, Randolph or Fairfax.

Sturdy manhood, unflinching bravery, deep religious sincerity, and the sterling worth of New England sons, equals all that is claimed for "Southern Chivalry."

The first who bore the name in England was a Norman, Johannes LeParker. He followed William the Conqueror and was keeper of the Royal Parks, whence his name variously spelled Parkerre, Parkre, Parchoar, Parker. That this family was anciently wrote LeParker there can be no doubt. William LeParker, A.D. 1271, time of Henry III, had a grant of free warrant in all his land in Eccles, Letingham, Hapesbury, Barnstable and Shateham, in the county of Norfolk. Thomas LeParker lived in the reign of Edward III, A.D. 1327. He was a person of ample possessions, and from him are descended some of the proudest families in England, including the illustrious members of the family of Sir Thomas Parker, Earl of Macclesfield. Much of the ancient history of the Parker family will be found in Collins' Peerage of England, and more recently in the excellent family history of descendants of John Parker, published by Mr. Theodore Parker of Worcester, Mass.



AMONG the early settlers in the good New England Colony were six young men of unusual promise : sturdy, of good education, and possessed of considerable means, they were men destined to make honorable records for themselves and for their families. The first five were brothers : Abraham, James, Joseph, John and Jacob Parker : the sixth, Thomas, was a cousin. The Rev. Theodore Parker traces his ancestry to the latter. Abraham early settled in Woburn, and became its first tax payer on September the 8th, 1645. A most interesting account of his life has been published by Mr. John L. Parker of Lynn, Mass. : and Dr. Green has given a valuable record of the Parker family in his excellent works on the history of Groton, more particularly referring to the sturdy life of that soldier, patriot and patriarch, James Parker.

In the early history of Groton, the Parker family was the most numerous in the town. James and Joseph Parker were brothers to Abraham Parker of Woburn and Chelmsford : they were original proprietors : the first named, owning a fifty acre right and the other a twenty acre right. James was a distinguished man and a leader in all public affairs. A sketch of his life and a copy of his will are given in Butler's History, pages 281, 285. He was living in Woburn in the year 1640, and he married May 23d, 1643. Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Long of Charlestown : their children were Elizabeth, born March 12, 1645, married — Gary : Ann, born March 5, 1647 : John, born February 18, 1649 : Sarah, born August 29, 1650, died next year : Joseph, born 1651 : James, born April 15, 1652 : Josiah, born 1655 : Samuel, born 1656 : Joshua, born March 13, 1658, married Abigail (Shattuck)

Morse, widow of Jonathan Morse ; Zechariah, born January 14, 1659 ; and Eleazer, born November 9, 1660 ; he married for his second wife Mrs. Eunice (Brooks) Carter, widow of Samuel Carter, and had a daughter, Sarah, who was born Dec. 12, 1697, after the father had reached the age of eighty years. His six oldest children were born in Woburn. Before coming to Groton, he lived for a while at Chelmsford, where several others were born. He died in the year 1701, aged about 48 years. James's house lot lay on both sides of the principal street in the village, just south of the small stream which to this day is called James' Brook, named after him. His house was one of the garrisons during King Phillip's War, and it was with Captain Parker that the Indian Chief talked, on the night of March 13, 1676, as mentioned in Hubbard's Narrative. In the assault made on the town, July 27, 1694, his son James, and Mary his son's wife, were killed by the Indians, and several of their children carried away captives ; and another son, Josiah, was a captain and served in the war against the Indians ; "He was in command at Groton, July 21, 1706, when Nathaniel Healy, of Newton, one of his company, was waylaid and slain, together with Ebenezer Legir, also of Newton, as they were going to meeting on the Sabbath day." A brother of Legir was taken captive at the same time. Joseph Parker, the other original proprietor, was a brother of James, and the ancestor of the most numerous branches of the family in this neighborhood. He was a large land owner in Groton, Chelmsford and Dunstable. The town's brand mark, used probably for marking cattle, was approved by the Governor and Magistrates on his petition, dated May 31, 1666. He married Margaret ———, and had the following children born in Chelmsford, on the dates set against their names :—

Joseph, March 30, 1653.

Anna, February 2, 1655, died young.

Mary, October 28, 1657.

John, November 4, 1660, died October 8, 1661.

Anna, November 16, 1663.

Sarah, November 16, 1666, died September 13, 1704.

Joseph, the father, died in the year 1690, leaving a large estate. Joseph, the son, married first, Elizabeth ———, and secondly, November 19, 1684, Hannah Blood; he had three children by his first wife and four by his second. He died about the year 1725.

Isaac Parker of this town was one of the early settlers of Charlestown, N. H., where he went about the year 1740. He was taken prisoner by the Indians, April 19, 1746; he remained in captivity until the following winter, when he was released.

The military company of the town was still kept up, and known as the Fort Company, and during a part of the year 1689, was supported by some Cavalry, under the command of Captain Jacob Moore. James Parker, Sen., was appointed the captain of it, Jonas Prescott the lieutenant, and John Laken the ensign, and these appointments were confirmed by the Governor and Council at a convention held in Boston, July 13, 1689.

Jonas Prescott was the grandfather of Colonel William Prescott, the commander of the American forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill, (Lieutenant Col. Moses Parker, who served under him in this battle, was a relative), who was himself the father of William Prescott, the lawyer and jurist and the grandfather of William Hickling Prescott, historian. Captain James Parker was the town clerk during the years 1678 and 1679, and in the early history of Groton was without question its most influential inhabitant. — (*Green's Groton During the Indian Wars.*)

James Parker soon went to Groton and became prominently connected with the history of that place. He was a second Miles Standish, doing excellent military service; he was also a scholar, and was for many years town clerk at Groton, besides holding more important offices.

Joseph and Nathan Parker were among the first settlers of Andover, about 1640. The Parkers have been prominent in the town affairs of Andover from its earliest history.

John settled about the same time at Shawsheen, now Andover, of which place he was the principal founder.

Jacob and Joseph were early settlers in Chelmsford, probably upon its incorporation in 1653.

The homestead of Abraham Parker was set off to him September 29, 1662, and composed about twenty-five acres of land, in the centre of the town. Of the date and locality of his birth there is no known evidence, but it is presumed that he came from Marlborough in Wiltshire, England. He was held in high esteem by his fellow countrymen, and many positions of confidence and honor were entrusted to him. His name frequently appears as a member of various committees for Town purposes. He died at Chelmsford, August 12, 1685. His will dated six days previous, is on file on Suffolk Probate Records, and was proved three years later before Sir Edmund Andros. His widow died November 30, 1691. Her will is on file on Middlesex Probate Records. His children were baptized by the Rev. John Fiske, a distinguished and learned divine, well known throughout the colony.

Abraham Parker was made a freeman in 1645. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, courage and honor. For twelve years he lived in Woburn, taking an active and prominent place in the affairs of that town. His estate adjoined that of Moses Cleveland, the ancestor of our President. Abraham Parker married November 18, 1644, Rose Whitlock, by whom he had the following children : —

Hannah, born October 29, 1645.

John, born October 30, 1647.

Abraham, born November 8, 1650, died 1651.

Abraham, born August, 1652.

Mary, born November 20, 1655.

Moses, born 1658.

Isaac, born September 13, 1660.

Eliza, born April 10, 1663.

Lydia, born February 17, 1665, (Married John Kidder.)

Jacob, born March 24, 1669.

Abraham Parker died August 12, 1689 : his wife died November 13, 1691.

Abraham Jr., son of the above, married July 15, 1682, Martha Livermore, and removed to Chelmsford, Mass., and later to Bradford, where he purchased a large estate. Mr. Hervey Parker, a lineal descendant, is at present living on the original plantation. February 19, 1702, Abraham Parker was received into the church, with Martha his wife, by letters of admission from the church in Chelmsford. Their children were : —

Abraham, married Elizabeth Bradstreet.

Mary, married her cousin James, son of Capt. James Parker of Groton.

James Parker was killed by Indians in Groton, July 27, 1694.

Moses Parker, brother to Abraham, Jr., married Abigail Hildreth. His son, Joseph Parker, was lieutenant in a snow shoe company, formed in 1724, to operate against the Indians. His son, Lieutenant Colonel Moses Parker, was a distinguished soldier of the Indian wars, and was known as "that Veteran Parker," at the battle of Bunker Hill. He rendered valuable and patriotic services in that glorious battle, and fell mortally wounded. He was captured by the British, and after undergoing amputation of his leg was left out upon the jail sidewalk all night to suffer. He died a prisoner of war, in jail, July 4, 1775. Trumbull in his celebrated painting of the Battle of Bunker Hill, has represented Lieut. Colonel Parker as wounded. In front of him bravely stands Major Knowlton, with his rifle presented. He was a cousin of Bradstreet Parker.

Abel Parker was also at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and was severely wounded in the fight. In March, 1778, he was made an Ensign in the Continental Army, and in October was promoted to a Lieutenancy. In 1802 he was a Judge of Probate.

The Parkers have been a patriotic race, and their names will be found in the records of the early Indian Colonial Anglo French Revolution, and the wars of 1812, and of Mexico, and of the Rebellion of 1861-5.

April 23, 1710, Abraham Parker, Jr., son of Abraham Parker, Jr., was admitted into the Church at Bradford, with Elizabeth Bradstreet, his wife. They were of the original one hundred and one members dismissed from the mother church to form its first colony. The East Precinct in Bradford, now the church in Groveland, was incorporated June 17, 1726. The land on which the church in Groveland originally stood, and now known as Perry Park, was given by Bradstreet Parker. The committee intrusted with the building of the church in Bradford in 1790, were Bradstreet Parker, Phineas Carlton, Samuel Adams, Retier H. Parker, Thomas Moore and Edward Sargent.

Bradstreet Parker, born July 23, 1729, died April 8, 1809.

Rebekah Balch, born August 9, 1729, died May 6, 1790. They were married July, 1750. Their children were :—

Benjamin, born April 8, 1751, died June 16, 1753.

Rebekah, born December 8, 1752, died March 17, 1830.

Phineas, born September 6, 1754, died March 30, 1811.

Moses, born April 20, 1756, died July 8, 1837.

Hannah, born November 9, 1757, died September 13, 1783.

Benjamin, born November 11, 1759, died May 12, 1845.

Abigail, born July 19, 1763, died December 19, 1824.

Nathan, born July 8, 1765, died August 22, 1765.

Mary, born December 8, 1767, died January 5, 1839.

Bradstreet, born July 26, 1770, died September 6, 1798.

William, born April 27, 1772, died May 1, 1844.

Betsy, born April 20, 1775, died March, 1861.

Rebekah Balch, the wife of Bradstreet Parker, was the daughter of the distinguished Rev. Dr. Balch, who was once offered the Presidency of Harvard College.

Mrs. Abby Parker Choate is the daughter of Dr. George Cogswell of Bradford, and granddaughter of Peter Parker of Groveland. She was the wife of the late Judge Choate, and sister of General Cogswell of Salem.

John L. Parker of Lynn, is also a descendant of Abraham Parker, through his son Moses Parker.

¹Abraham, ²Moses, ³Aaron, ⁴Aaron, ⁵Ebenezer, ⁶Ebenezer, ⁷Ebenezer, ⁸John.

His great-grandfather, with four of his brothers, served in the Revolutionary War.

Mr. John L. Parker has an honorable military record in the War of the Rebellion.

He has collected about seventy groups of the Parker family, of the Abraham Parker line, and is at present (1893) engaged upon a biography of Abraham Parker.



I N the registry of deeds in Salem there is recorded the deed from Samuel Bailey to Abraham Parker of one hundred and forty-four acres of land in Rowley (East Bradford), now Groveland, dated March 12, 1723, and which acknowledges the receipt therefor of seven hundred and fifty pounds.

In August 1747, this property is deeded to the son, Bradstreet, and prior to this a certain portion had been sold to another son, Abraham.

The old homestead has passed on from father to son through many generations, and is still a sturdy, comfortable home.

When we consider the history of New England, the date 1723 seems an old one, so much of history dates in later times.

The homes were built of honest timber in the olden times, and were calculated to last for centuries. Life moved on more slowly, and amid less excitement. Stirring times these were, but the life at the farm held the same old current of serenity.

The old clock on the stairs, which came to the homestead in 1760, still ticks away the hours and minutes as of yore ; but what changes have taken place since then !

Benjamin Parker, A.M., M.D., was born in the old Parker homestead, in Bradford, Mass., November 11, 1759. He was educated at the famous Dummer Academy, and was prepared for college by Master Moody, a very eminent teacher. He was graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1782. He received his degree of M.D. from Dartmouth Medical College. Dr. Benjamin settled early in life in Cumberland County, Virginia, where he acquired a lucrative practice,

considerable property and a most honorable record. He married for his first wife a widow lady, by the name of Brown, who died soon after the birth of their first child, Maria Parker. This daughter married Governor Diamond of Rhode Island. The children of this union were the late Mrs. Theodore W. Phinney of Newport, R. I., and Mrs. Morris of Bristol, R. I. Dr. Parker married September 23, 1816, for his second wife, Mrs. Hannah Moulton of Atkinson, New Hampshire. Their children were :—

William Thornton, born January 8, 1818, and died March 12, 1855.

Eldred Simpkins, born May 7, 1820, and died November 5, 1892.

Charles Francis, born August 10, 1822, and died March 23, 1843.

Dr. Benjamin Parker was a man of great ability and influence, and of commanding presence, a friend of the Randolphins, Thorntons and other distinguished families of the Old Dominion. At one time his name was prominently mentioned as a candidate for the Presidential election. Although living in the midst of slavery, and having in possession many colored servants, he fearlessly opposed the system which he considered a national wrong. The following letter very clearly states his opinions concerning the great question, which afterwards proved to be so difficult of solving, and which cost so much of the nation's most precious blood and treasure.

“There can be no great reliance placed in the fidelity of a slave. Slavery has debased the mind and taken away all stimulus to a virtuous and honorable course of conduct. But no more of this : for although you were born in a land where domestic slavery prevailed, yet I hope you will never live in such a land, nor know the countless evils that follow from a system so iniquitous. I do and have endured more anguish of mind and real unhappiness from the parting with my faithful set of domestics, male and female, than from any other single source of misfortune or calamity. The poor creatures seem to look up to me, as to some superior power ; they depend on me : to me they are attached by the strongest ties of interest and gratitude, and I feel somehow as if

I had failed them, and as if they had put their trust in one who was not true to their hopes and expectations. I have been kind to them while in my possession, and it is a comfort to reflect that I have been so."

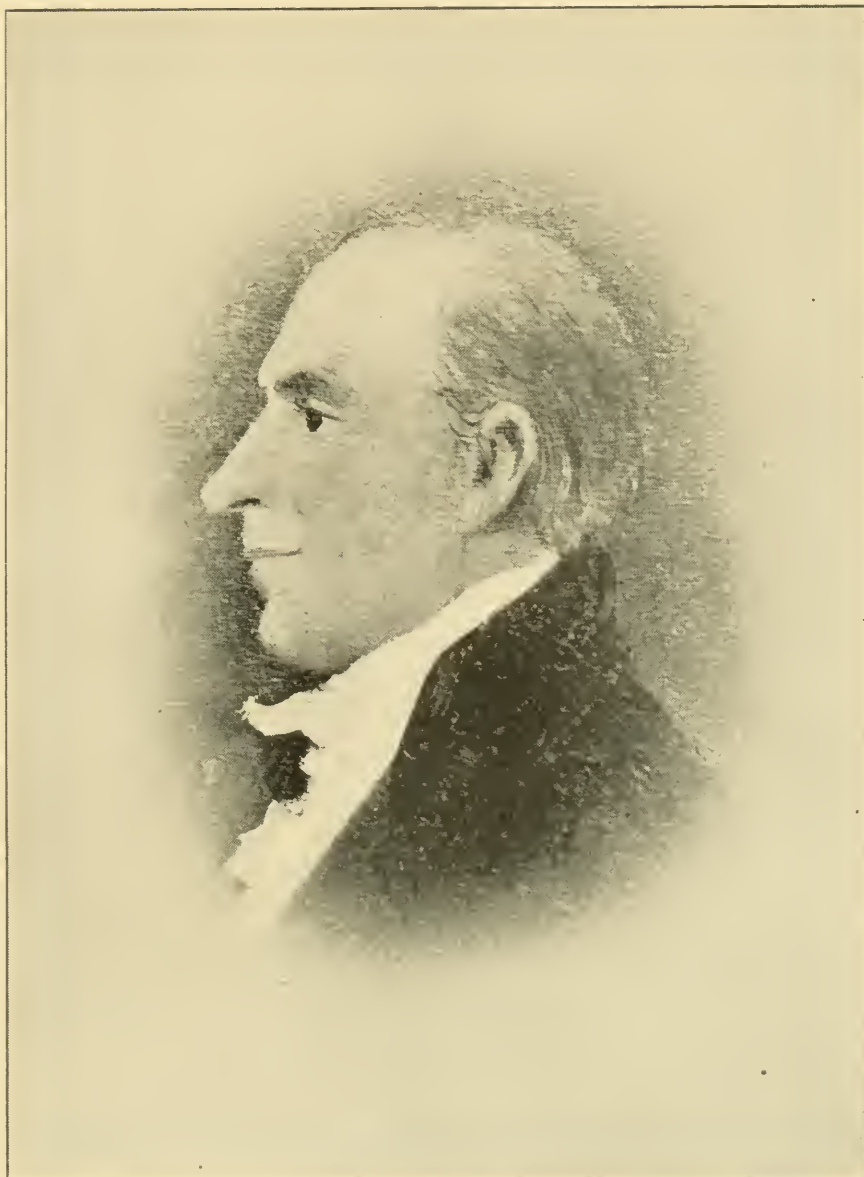
Such sentiments reflect the spirit of charity and honor, and were not uncommon among Southern gentlemen.

Of the Parker family the venerable and beloved Dr. Cogswell of Bradford has said:—

"They all had abundance, and there was not a poor one among them. Dr. Benjamin Parker married well and was always a marked individual, a perfect gentleman of the old school, a faithful and honorable physician, and a sincere and devout Christian, and a man of Chivalrous courage." The old church of Groveland has upon its minutes under date of December 31, 1831, the following record of a generous gift: "Voted:—That the thanks of the church be presented to Dr. Benjamin Parker, for the present of two valuable flagons, which he has generously made them." These flagons are of solid silver, massive and strong, a suitable memento of the faith and manhood of the sturdy Christian donor. Dr. Benjamin Parker is remembered as a liberal, kindly hearted gentleman, who dearly loved to do good. He died at the old homestead so calmly that Dr. Cogswell was impressed with the fact that the dreariness and terror of death seemed robbed of its strength.

The remains of Dr. Benjamin Parker rest in faith and hope and peace in the family lot in the old cemetery at Groveland, under a granite monument. "*Non omnis moriar.*"

Dr. Benjamin Parker had for his book plate the old Parker Arms, which are the same as now held by the present Earl of Macclesfield, Sir Thomas Parker, and which are thus described:—"The crest is a leopard's head, guardant erased at the neck," or, "ducally gorged; gu, Arm; gu, a chevron between three leopards' heads," or "supporters, two leopards regardant ppr, each gorged with a ducal coronet gu." The motto is "Dare to be just," (*Aude fiere justam*).



BENJAMIN PARKER, A. M. M. D.
M. M. S. S.

William Thornton Parker was born at the old homestead, July, 1818: he was the eldest son of Dr. Benjamin Parker. He was graduated at Dartmouth, in 1838; studied medicine with Dr. A. L. Pierson, of Salem, and received his medical degree at Harvard, 1841. Soon after receiving his 'medical degree, Dr. Parker settled in South Boston where he established himself in an excellent practice and made for himself an honorable reputation as a skillful physician and surgeon, and a devout and consistent Churchman. He was a man of great ability, both in his profession and in art—his anatomical atlas being a work of remarkable beauty and professional accuracy. He married Miss Clementina Morse, daughter of the Hon. Elijah Morse, of Boston, and granddaughter of William Jackson, Esq., M. D., of London, England, son of William Jackson, one of the Aldermen of London. The marriage took place at Trinity Church, Boston, January 8th, 1845, Rev. Joseph Clinch officiating. He died at Jamaica Plain, Mass., March 12, 1855, aged 37 years. (See New Eng. Gen. Register, July 1887—p. 263 et seq.)

The following notices from the Boston Medical Journal of March 22, 1855, are slight tokens of his work. They were written by his friend and classmate, William Wallace of Morland, A. M., M. D., of Boston, Mass.:

By the death of Dr. Parker, both the profession and the community have sustained a real loss. To eminent professional abilities he added that sound judgment, highly honorable feeling and exceeding kindness of heart, which, united, constitute the truly "*good physician*." From early and intimate acquaintance with him we feel that we can speak with confidence of his attainments, his exertions for usefulness, his qualities of heart and mind. For many years "we have been friends together," and the sadness which the departure of a valued associate brings with it is mingled with an unusual amount of very grateful and pleasant reminiscence. Active and industrious in his habits, Dr. Parker established an extensive practice for himself, in

South Boston, immediately after taking his medical degree. There are many in that portion of our city who can testify to his unflinching integrity, his entire devotion to the interests of those entrusted to his medical care, his acute discrimination of disease, and his faithfulness, to the very last of his career as a practitioner. To this trait, indeed, is much of his ill health, latterly, ascribed. Overwork did a vast deal towards developing the slow, but sure disease of which he died. Unwilling to yield, he struggled on, visiting his patients continuously, often leaving his bed for several successive nights, when ill able so to do. Compelled at last to quit an excellent practice and to resign the home comforts his industry had gathered, he sought health, both in Cuba and by a residence of some months in Europe, but without avail. With a strong will and a large share of good spirits which once animated him, he toiled almost to the last day of his life, to supply the failure of the means formerly afforded by his professional exertions. Occupation was his life. He never seemed unhappy when employed. Pleasantly retired in a beautiful neighboring town, he wrought with pen and pencil, amid much physical trial, but surrounded with warm friends and delightful influences. To most of his medical brethren here, his skill as an artist is well known. We do not know, in the ranks of the profession, anyone who at all approached him in the art of delineation and design. In pen-drawing he was an adept; in coloring, his hand was unrivalled. We have seen his copies from the most splendid anatomical plates, which we literally prefer to the original. In sketching, as well as in copying, he was peculiarly felicitous. One of the most touching circumstances connected with our remarks upon this accomplishment, is the fact that the *last* work done by his hand was executed for the writer of this slight tribute to worth. These drawings, finished only a few days before his death, have a value that can attach to such works alone. He who could so use the pencil might find in it almost a support. By a medical man, especially in these days of minute investigation, the talent cannot be too highly estimated.

Constantly occupied through the past winter, and enjoying much of that social comfort which was ever grateful to him, he has at last gently passed from earth, solaced by the consolation and hopes of religion. Violent hemorrhages from the lungs was the final agent in the gradual process of dissolution. A first and comparatively slight attack, a fortnight since, when able to be about his house, was succeeded by profuse bleeding shortly after. He slowly sank, and after a restless night on Sunday, 11th inst., went into a quiet sleep on Monday morning, from which he woke in "the better land."

At a meeting of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, Monday evening, 12th inst., Dr. Storer referred to the decease of Dr. Parker, and offered the following resolutions:—

*"Resolved—*That this Society has heard with regret of the decease of their late associate William T. Parker, M. D., who had endeared himself to many of his medical brethren by his high-minded, honorable conduct, and to a large circle of friends by his uniformly kind and faithful devotion to the duties of his calling, until compelled by the declining health to relinquish them.

*"Voted—*That the Secretary transmit to his widow this expression of our regret for his memory, with our deepest sympathy for her loss."

The following appreciative notice of Dr. Parker is taken from Vol. IX, Medical Communications of the Massachusetts Medical Society for 1855:

"He had improved well his opportunities for study; and by gentlemanly manners, constant industry, and with the air and resolve of one who knew he should succeed, he very soon acquired an extensive practice in South Boston, where he chose his residence. It was a location where, at that time, a vast deal of labor had to be done for a comparatively small remuneration. But he was none the less ready and faithful for all that; and, when overwork began to undermine his health, he could not in season persuade himself to deny anyone to favor himself. Compelled at last to relinquish a practice already luc-

rative, and to resign the home comforts his industry had gathered, he repaired to Cuba and afterwards to Italy, without any benefit, and then submitted to his fate. He retired to the beautiful village of Jamaica Plain. There, amid much physical suffering, and surrounded by warm friends and delightful influences, with cheerfulness and determination he toiled almost to the last day of his life, to supply, in some measure, the means formerly derived from professional exertions, as well as to gratify his inbred thirst for occupation. He never seemed unhappy when employed. Happily he had uncommon skill, both with the pen and pencil. His accurate and highly finished anatomical drawings are well known to most physicians in the vicinity of Boston. Indeed, he had a critical appreciation of art, as well as nice, practical skill; and his comments on the works of the great masters which he saw at Florence, show him to have been a true connoisseur. By great prudence, by the cheering sympathies of friends, and the sustaining influences of profound religious hope, his life was prolonged much beyond his own expectations; but at last profuse hemorrhages suddenly laid him low, and he died March 12, 1855, aged thirty-seven years."

"MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE."

For all the Saints who from their labor rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confess'd,
Thy name, O Jesus be forever bless'd.

Amen.

INSCRIPTION ON THE OLD MONUMENT AT
CONCORD, MASS.

HERE,
ON THE 19th OF APRIL, 1775,
WAS MADE THE FIRST FORCIBLE RESISTANCE TO
BRITISH AGGRESSION.
ON THE OPPOSITE BANK STOOD THE AMERICAN MILITIA,
HERE STOOD THE INVADING ARMY,
AND ON THIS SPOT THE FIRST OF THE ENEMY FELL
IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION,
WHICH GAVE INDEPENDENCE TO THESE UNITED STATES.
IN GRATITUDE TO GOD, AND IN THE LOVE OF FREEDOM,
THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED,
A.D. 1836.

THE BRIDGE AT CONCORD.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

“By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.
The foe long since in silence slept,
Alike the conqueror, silence sleeps,
And time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.
On this green bank by this soft stream,
We set today a voter's stone,
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sire's, our sons are gone.
Spirit that made those heroes dare,
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid time and nature gently spare
This shaft we raise to them and Thee.”



LIEUT. COL. MOSES PARKER.

THE war of the American Revolution had its birth in a land apparently ill-prepared to afford soldiers capable of successfully withstanding the veterans and heroes of the superb army of England. This idea not only prevailed among the invaders, but even among the patriots there were serious misgivings as to the outcome of an attempt to find sufficient material to make a powerful army.

“It is impossible for the Rebels to withstand our arms for a moment,” remarked Gen. Gage to Gen. Ruggles, at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

“Sir,” replied the latter, “you do not know with whom you have to contend. These are the very men who conquered Canada. I fought with them side by side. I know them well. They will fight bravely.”

Nothing could have been more truly stated. The heroes from whom the gallant Continental Army was recruited were of no common origin. With the true blue blood of England’s best sons in their veins, with the lessons learned in dangerous emigration, and with the constant battle for home and life and the safety of their families, and with the strength born in multitudes of trials and sufferings, and with the moral courage of a righteous cause, and with the experience many of them had already obtained in the Canadian and Indian Wars, an army was formed of heroes and veterans, before whom the best military skill in the world might well feel doubtful as to the outcome of battle. Such men as these, with powerful frames, with sturdy wills, with fearless

courage, and with the sacred influence of perfect trust in the God of battle and the justice of their cause, marched forth willingly to suffer and to die, that we, their descendants, might enjoy, so long as we worthily appreciated these blessings, a home and a nation which should be the comfort and hope of the downtrodden people of the earth. Their deeds of valor founded a Republic, which has become the despair of royal oppression and the emblem of protection and encouragement to nations still longing to throw off tyranny and injustice.

Every family gave of its treasure in the glorious War of the Revolution. Father and son served together, and often died together, or, worse still, shared the cruel torture of a British prison pen, while mothers and sisters contributed their share by brave work at home, and by the sacrifice of suffering and privation. With all the histories of brave deeds before us, with all the records of noble achievements, not one has ever come to light, before or since this heroic struggle, whose shining can, or ever may hope, to equal the brightness and glory of the deeds of our American ancestry in the glorious War of the Revolution. Nor need any man offer an apology for writing again and again on the subject. It is our duty to keep ever before the minds of our children, briefly and clearly, the noble lessons which it has been our privilege to learn, to remember the cost of this nation of ours, to remember in what a forge and what a heat were shaped the anchors of our hope. By their "blood the land was bought, the land they loved so well."

From among these heroes and patriots let us single out one man whose name seldom appears in the military records of the battle in which he gallantly received what proved his death wound. He fell on the day the sons of Massachusetts still love to honor, the glorious 17th of June, the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill. He died in the cruelty of a British prison on the day the nation celebrates with highest honors, the day of American Patriotism, the 4th of July. Lieut.-Col. Moses Parker was a man of mark. A veteran of many battles with the Indians, escaping with what seemed to be a series of

miracles, the deadly campaigns of the war of 1756, where he had signalized himself for unusual bravery, and especially so at the siege of Frontenac. His father, Col. Joseph Parker, had perished, with his whole command, in a terrible battle with the Oneidas, and the mantle of his bravery had been given to as worthy a son as ever received the honor of being the commander of brave men.

Lieut.-Col. Parker was a man of sterling worth, brave, generous, hospitable, with sturdy frame and fearless eyes, and ready and quick to understand the ever changing tide of battle. He was careful and deeply concerned for the well being of his men in camp, on the march, and in the fierce encounter. From an old history of Chelmsford, Mass., we copy the following honorable record: —

Lieut.-Col. Moses Parker was wounded in battle (Bunker's Hill), 17th June, by a ball which fractured his knee. He was taken captive and carried into Boston, where, after amputation of his leg, he died of his wounds in prison, July 4th. He early discovered a taste for military life, and embraced every opportunity that occurred of cultivating a knowledge of military tactics, and of gratifying his predominant love of the duties and labors of the camp. In 1758, he was honored with a lieutenant's commission in a company commanded by Capt. Jona Butterfield, and raised for the express purpose of a general invasion of Canada. He was promoted to a captain in the succeeding year, and in 1760 commanded a company at Fort Frederick, St. Johns. In this expedition he distinguished himself as a brave soldier, and as an intrepid and dauntless officer. He was endeared to those under his care by his assiduous attention to their wants, and constant endeavors to render their situation as pleasant as circumstances would permit. Such was his reputation that when Gov. Bernard, in 1761, was selecting from a multitude of applicants, thirty captains for that year's service, Capt. Parker stood forth the most prominent military character on the list. Col. Thwing and Col. Arbuthnot declared that "they would not go without him, that he was the only captain they had insisted upon." So

great was his popularity, that his friends had assured him that if he would accept of a captainship, "fifty men might be immediately raised to serve under him."—Letter of Oliver Fletcher, Esq.

"Thus, practiced for many years, in the arts and duties of the tented field, he was qualified to take an active and honorable part in the Revolutionary War at an early period, of which his fame was consummated. About a month previous to the battle on Bunker's Hill, he was chosen Lieut. Colonel of the 27th Regiment of Minute Men. Col. Bridge and Maj. Brooks (now his excellency John Brooks), were chosen at the same meeting to their respective offices."

Those who are familiar with Trumbull's famous painting of the Battle of Bunker Hill, will, by consulting the key to the painting, find that the figure marked "2" is Lieut. Col. Parker. He is represented seated on the ground, on the extreme left of the picture, rifle by his side, his left hand grasping his knee, where the fatal wound had been received. His attitude is one of patient fortitude, and his whole bearing manly and faithful. The figure is on the left hand side of the picture, quite close to that of Gen. Putnam, and just behind that of Major Knowlton, who bravely shields him with his own body, as the victorious British pressed forward to finish the conflict.

A more striking picture of the hero is shown in the Cyclorama of the Battle of Bunker Hill, in Boston. Here his attitude is quite different. With the strength and vigor of manhood, he is shown in the midst of the battle, his bright, strong sword gleaming as he leads and directs the sturdy patriots of his native town of Chelmsford, to the heroic deeds for which their worthy sons will ever have just cause to be proud and grateful.

The following inscriptions are on the monument at Chelmsford, Mass. :

LIEUT.-COL. MOSES PARKER,
AND
CAPTAIN BENJAMIN WALKER,
WOUNDED AT BUNKER HILL, JUNE 17TH, 1775,
DIED PRISONERS IN BOSTON, JULY 4TH, AND
AUGUST, 1775.
LIEUT. ROBERT SPAULDING, DIED AT MILFORD,
CON. 1776.

— IN HONOR —
OF THE TOWNSMEN OF CHELMSFORD,
WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE
WAR OF THE REVOLUTION,
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED
BY A
GRATEFUL POSTERITY.

The war of the Revolution ended, American Independence was permanently established. When the glad tidings arrived that peace was declared, every countenance was radiant with smiles. In every town and village throughout the land, bells were rung, cannons were fired and bonfires blazed. "It seemed as if all were inspired with new life; and in the hour of triumph, how proudly the soldiery, who had fought for their country, recounted the perilous scenes they had witnessed, and looking to heaven with grateful emotions, poured out their offerings of gratitude to God! To view such a scene with indifference is impossible; and if the story of the Revolution, notwithstanding its drawbacks, becomes to us ever, a 'thrice told tale,' or ceases to arouse us to emulate the virtues and admire the heroism of those who achieved the independence of our country, then may we be assured the day of our downfall is rapidly approaching, and we are becoming unworthy of the continued enjoyment of the blessings of liberty, now so widely diffused throughout our land."

The following is an extract from the *Battle of Bunker Hill Historic Poem*, in four cantos, by Col. William Emmons, Boston, 1859 :—

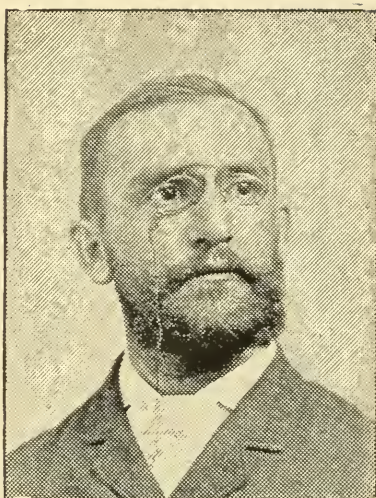
Moore, Parker, Gardner, Gilman, Spencer, Stark,
Belted their arms to guard their nation's ark
From the polluting touch of slavery's hand,
That dared to seize, to bear it from the land.

— From Canto I.

Now, Pitcairn twice the parapet had scaled,
And twice against him, Parker's arm prevailed ;
But lo, supported by a numerous train,
Parker is presently o'erpowered and slain.

— From Canto IV.

The same poem relates how Col. Prescott, a relative of Lieut. Col. Parker, kills Pitcairn, and how, in revenge for Warren's death, Gen. Putnam kills Abercrombie.



WILLIAM THORNTON PARKER, M. D.





FROM various sources I have collected short biographical notices of some members of the great family of Parkers, who have made honorable records for themselves.

This list is by no means complete, but illustrates how very honorable and useful have been the lives of many members of this family, not only in the Old Countrie of Merry England, but in this new land of ours, which owes not a little to their patriotism and courage and wisdom.

Parker, Henry, Lord Morley, one of the barons who threatened Clement VII. with the loss of his supremacy, if he refused his consent to the throne of Henry the VIII. He boasts the reputation of a man of letters, and some of his works exist in Mss. 1476, 1556.

Parker, Mathew, the second Archbishop of Canterbury, was born in Norwich, 1504, and was early distinguished by his progress in every branch of knowledge connected with the study of divinity. In 1533, he became chaplain to Queen Ann Boleyn, and was charged by her with the care of her daughter, Elizabeth. He remained in concealment during the reign of Mary, though search was several times made for him ; and was elevated to the primacy on the accession of Elizabeth. He was among the first selected to prepare the reformed liturgy, and the Bishop's bible which remained in use until the present translation was effected, was printed under his inspection.

Archbishop Parker was also a great antiquarian, and had some share, either as patron or editor, in the work "De Antiquitate Britan-

nical Ecclesial," besides being the founder of the first Society of Antiquaries. He died 1575.

Parker, Robert, a Puritan writer on theological subjects, known from 1583 to 1607. His son, Thomas, a theological and religious writer, took refuge in America, 1634, died there 1677.

Sir Peter Parker, a British Admiral, born 1723, died 1811, son of Admiral Christopher Parker. He became a post Captain in 1747, and in 1775 in *The Bristol*, of 50 guns, proceeded with a squadron under his command to cooperate, with Gen. Clinton, on the attack on Charlestown, S. C., arriving at Cape Fear in May. On June 28, he made an unsuccessful attack on Fort Moultrie, resulting in great loss and damage to his fleet, and the abandonment of the enterprise. For his bravery in this affair he received the honor of knighthood. He aided Lord Howe, in the capture of New York ; and commanded the squadron that took possession of Rhode Island, in the latter part of 1776. He held the chief command on the Jamaica station in 1777 and 1782 ; was made a Baronet Dec. 26, 1782 ; subsequently became Commander in Chief, at Portsmouth ; M. P. for Maldon ; Admiral of the White ; and on the death of Lord Howe, as the oldest Admiral in the Navy, he became Admiral of the Fleet. His grandson, Sir Peter, born 1786, distinguished himself as Captain of the *Mendaus* frigate, and in 1814 sailed up the Chesapeake to destroy an American camp, at Bellair. He landed his men and gallantly attacked the Americans, but was killed in the affair, in August of 1814.

Parker, Sir Hyde, a British Admiral, born 1739, died March 16, 1807 ; he was second son of Vice-Admiral, H. Parker : distinguished himself in the attack on New York ; served on the *Phoenix* ; in 1779 he was Knighted ; he was present in action, off *Dagger Bank* ; in 1793, was made Rear Admiral of the White ; was present at the surrender of Toulon, and the reduction of Corsica ; In 1796, he took the command of Jamaica ; In 1799, was made Admiral of the Red, and and in 1807 commanded at the memorable attack of Copenhagen.

Parker, Hon. James, legislator, born in Bethlehem, N. J., March 3, 1776, died at Perth Amboy, N. J., April 1st, 1868 ; Col. Cav. 1793 ; James, his father, one of the Provisional Council, before the Revolution, and a leading member of the Board of Proprietors of the Colony, removed to Perth Amboy in 1783, and died 1797 ; the son then assumed the care of his large landed estate ; was a member of the N. J. Assembly, 1806, 1819, 1827 and 1828, and active in establishing the free school system into the State, and in abolishing the exportation of slaves : M. C. 1833-7 ; State Consti. Convent. in 1844 ; Vice-Pres. N. J. Hist. Soc. He gave to Rutgers's College the land at New Brunswick, on which its buildings are erected.

Parker, General Thomas, born Frederick Co., Virginia, died the 24th of January, 1820 ; a captain in the Revolutionary Army ; Lieut. Col., 8th Inf., 1799 ; Colonel, 12th Inf., 1812 ; Brig. Gen., U. S. A. 1813-14.

Parker, Samuel, Revd., Cont.—Mr. Parker originated the Mission of the American Board in Oregon, travelled there 1835-7, subsequently lectured in the Eastern States on the character of the territory, and did much to establish the claims of the U. S. Government to the lands, and to induce emigrants to settle there. He is also said to have been the first to suggest the possibility of constructing a railroad through the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. He published *Exploring Tour Beyond the Rocky Mountains*, Ithaca, N. Y., 1838.

Parker, Joel, LL.D. Dartmouth, 1837 ; H. U. 1848 ; jurist ; born in Jaffrey, N.H., January 25, 1795 ; Dartmouth College, 1811 ; began practice of law at Keene, in September, 1815 ; member of New Hampshire Legislature, 1824-6 ; appointed Assoc. Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, January 8, 1833, and Chief Justice, June 25th, 1838 ; Prof. of Medical jurisprudence, Dartmouth College, 1847-57 ; Chairman Committee to revise New Hampshire laws, in Nov. 1840, Nov. 6, 1847 ; Royal Prof. of Law, Harvard University ; author of many valuable works at law.

Parker, Col. Richard, Revolutionary officer of Virginia, died at the siege of Charlestown, S. C., April 24th, 1780. He was Colonel of the 8th Virginia Regiment.

Parker, Richard E., Jurist of Virginia ; born 1777, died Nov. 1840 ; member of the House of Delegates : many years a Judge of the General and Circuit Courts of Virginia, also of the Supreme Court of Appeals, and in 1836-7 U. S. Senator.

Parker, Amasa J., L.L.D., Gen. Coll., 1846 ; Jurist ; born in Sharon, Ct., June 2, 1817 ; Un. Coll., 1825 ; son of Rev. Daniel, Minister of Ellsworth ; admitted to the Bar 1828, and to partnership with his uncle, Col. Amasa Parker, member of legislature, in 1833 : elected Regent of the State Univ. in 1835 ; member of Congress 1837-9 ; appointed Circuit Judge and Vice-Chancellor of the Court of Equity 1844 : Judge of the Supreme Court : U.S. Dist. Atty., for N. Y., 1859 : author of several works on law.

Parker, Daniel, Brig. General, U. S. Army ; born at Shirley, Mass., January 29th, 1782, died at Washington, D. C., April 5, 1846 : Dartmouth College, 1801 : brother of Leonard M. Parker ; Judge Advocate General, 1811 : began practice at Charlestown ——— : Adjutant and Inspector General, 1814 : Paymaster General, 1821 ; he published the Army Register in 1816.

Parker, Edgar, M.D., Harvard University, 1863 : entered army as Assistant Surgeon, 13 Mass. Inf. : was taken prisoner twice, and seriously wounded at the battle of Gettysburg.

Parker, Edward Griffin, born Boston, Nov. 16, 1825 ; Vol. Aide on General Butler's staff, 1861 : Asst. Adj. General of Gen. Martendale's staff.

Parker, Foxhall, a Captain, U. S. Navy : son of Captain F. A. Parker, U. S. Navy : born New York, August, 1821 ; Graduate Naval school 1843 ; Capt., July, 1866 : served in Florida against the Indians : Com. gunboat Mahaska, 1863 ; Naval battle on Morris Island, during bombardment of Ft. Sumpter, 1863 ; engaged with Confederates,

both on Potomac and Rappahannock rivers, and off Wilmington, N. C., and with Confederate troops while on shore, while commanding the Mahaska, in '63, and Potomac flotilla in '64 and '65 ; author of "Squadron tactic, under steam," "Naval Howitzer, ashore and afloat, etc."

Parker, Nahum, Senator ; born in Cheshire Co., N. H., March 4, 1765, died in Fitzwilliam, N. H., November 12, 1839 ; State Councilor, 1805-7 ; U. S. Senator, 1806, resigned, 1810 ; Justice of the Court of Common Pleas ; Judge of the Court of Sessions, 1821 ; President of the New Hampshire Senate, 1828.

Parker, Cortlandt, son of Hon. James Parker of N. J., born in Perth Amboy, N. J., June 27, 1808 ; graduate at Rutgers, 1836 ; admitted to the bar and obtained eminence at his profession ; he was one of the revisers of the laws of New Jersey in 1875, and a Commissioner to settle the boundaries between that state and Delaware ; he was successively offered the Judgeship of the Court of Alabama Claims, by President Grant, the Mission to Russia by President Hayes, and that to Austria by President Arthur, but declined them all ; Rutgers and Princeton gave him the degree of L.L.D. in 1866.

Parker, Revd. Theodore, Unitarian Minister and author ; born at Lexington, Mass., Aug. 24, 1810, died at Florence, Italy, May 10, 1860 ; M. A. of H. U., 1840. His grandfather, Captain John, commanded the company of Minute Men at Lexington, who were fired upon by the British troops, April 19th, 1775. Theodore inherited from his parents an earnest and thoughtful mind ; at ten he began to study Latin ; his memory was so retentive that he could repeat whole volumes of poetry. He studied at Lexington Academy in 1827 ; entered Harvard College, 1830 ; in 1837 he was settled over the Unitarian Society in West Roxbury. He traveled in Europe in 1858. He died from an attack of hemorrhage of the lungs. He was vigorously opposed to the Mexican wars, and was one of the earliest advocates of Anti-Slavery. He bequeathed his valuable library of 13,000 volumes

to the Public Library, Boston. He was the author of several valuable works. He was plain, outspoken, and uncompromising in the utterance of his convictions, but in the intercourse of private, exhibited almost feminine gentleness and affectionateness. He was remarkable for the extraordinary extent and precision of his knowledge.

Parker, Joel, Governor of New Jersey; born near Freehold, N.J., Nov., 24, 1816, died in Philadelphia, Jan. 2nd, 1888. His father Charles was a member of the New Jersey legislature for several years, and served as State Treasurer. Joel removed with his father to Trenton, in 1821; graduated at Princeton, 1839; studied law under Chief Justice Green, and settled in Freehold; political career began in 1844 as a Democratic speaker; was in the Assembly, 1847-50; prosecuting attorney, 1852-7; a Presidential elector in 1860; Commissioned Brigadier General, 1857; Major General in 1861. He opposed the Civil war, but when it began, actively supported the National Government: as Governor of New Jersey, he conducted the affairs of the State with prudence and ability; he was active in supplying troops during the war; he established a method of settlement for the war debt, and at the close of the war there was a surplus of 200,000 dollars in the State Treasury; he took strong ground in favor of amnesty toward those who had taken part in the war against the Government; he was nominated for President of the United States by the New Jersey delegation to the National Democratic Convention, receiving the full ballot; he was again elected Governor in 1870; he was chosen Judge of the Supreme Court of New Jersey in 1880; Rutgers gave him L.L.D. in 1872.

Parker, Revd. Dr. Peter, Missionary to China; born in Framingham, Mass., June 18, 1804, died in Washington, D. C., January 10, 1888; graduated at Yale in 1831, and at the Medical Department in 1834; and having also studied theology was ordained the same year, and sent to China as a Missionary by the American board. He established a hospital at Canton: 2000 were admitted the first year. Dr. Parker's

skill as a surgeon caused the fame of the hospital to spread rapidly ; he preached to the inmates, and trained several natives in medicine and surgery ; he returned to the United States in 1845 ; 1855 he was by the special request of the United States Government appointed Commissioner, with full power, to revise the treaty of 1844 ; he became Regent of the Smithsonian Institution in 1868 ; Corporate member of the American Board in 1871 ; he was a delegate of the Evangelical Alliance to Russia the same year, to memorialize the Emperor in behalf of religious liberty in the Baltic provinces ; he was president of the Washington branch, Evangelical Alliance in 1887.

Prof. Willard Parker, distinguished surgeon, born in Hillsborough, N. H., Sept. 2, 1800, died at New York, April 25, 1884. His ancestors emigrated to Massachusetts in 1640, and settled at Chelmsford. Graduated at Harvard in 1826 ; pupil of Dr. J. C. Warren of Boston ; Graduated at Harvard, in Medicine in 1830 ; lecturer on Anatomy at the Vermont Medical College afterwards ; Prof. of Anatomy at the Berkshire Medical College, afterwards Prof. of Surgery at the same college ; Prof. of Surgery in Cincinnati Medical College. He spent some time after this in European hospitals, and finally settled down in New York, where he accepted the appointment of Prof. of Surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which he held for thirty years. He established a large practice in New York and took the highest rank in his profession. His remarkable success was based on great knowledge and skill, and his mode of treatment which inspired the absolute faith of his patient. All the important operations that are only undertaken by the greatest surgeons, were performed by him with more than ordinary success. He was active in the organization of the New York Pathology Society in 1843, and of that for the relief of the widows and orphans of medical men, in 1846, and also for the New York Academy of Medicine in 1847, becoming its President in 1856, and holding that office many years. He held many honorable appointments in the New York hospitals ; he was a member of many foreign and domestic

medical societies, active in benevolent and religious organizations, and the friend of education; Princeton gave him the degree of L.L.D. The Willard Parker Hospital, for contagious diseases, was erected and named in his honor; few American surgeons have filled so acceptable and large a number of responsible offices. His son, Willard Parker, M.D., is a prominent practitioner in New York City.

COPY OF LIEUTENANT JOSEPH PARKER'S COMMISSION.

William Dummer, Esq., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over his Majesty's provinces of Massachusetts Bay in New England.

To Joseph Parker, Gent. — *Greeting:*

By virtue of the power and authority in and by his Majesty's Commission to me, granted to be Lieutenant Governor, etc., I do, by these presents, reposing especial trust and confidence in your loyalty, courage and good conduct, constitute and appoint you, the said Joseph Parker, to be Lieutenant of a company of snow-shoe men, and of those that are appointed to be in readiness to issue out against the Indian enemy and rebels, upon any alarm or attack; whereof, Robert Richardson is Captain in the regiment of militia, in the County of Middlesex, whereof, Eleazer Tyng, Esq., is Colonel. You are, therefore, diligently and faithfully to discharge the duties of a Lieutenant, etc.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Boston, 5th day of February, in the eleventh year of the reign of his Majesty, King George, A. D., 1724.

Signed, WILLIAM DUMMER.

Parker, Isaac, a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, 1768, 1830.

Parker, Samuel, Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts, 1745-1804: born in Portsmouth, N.H., August 17, 1744, died in Boston, Mass., December 6, 1804. His father, William, was an eminent lawyer and

Judge of the Superior Court at the opening of the Revolution. Samuel was graduated at Harvard, in 1764, engaged in teaching while preparing for orders, and in October, 1773, was offered the Assistant Rectorship of Trinity Church, Boston; he accordingly went to England and was made Deacon in the Chapel of Fullam palace, London, February 24, 1774, by Dr. Ferrich, Lord Bishop of London, and ordained priest three days later by the same dignitary. He returned home in November, 1774, and entered at once upon his duties. At the beginning of the Revolution he sided with his countrymen, was the only Episcopal clergyman to remain at his post; and in 1779 became rector of the parish. After the war he was active in seeking to revive and aid scattered Episcopal churches, and was agent for the Society for the propagation of the gospel. In 1803 he was unanimously elected to succeed Bishop Bass, in the Episcopate of Massachusetts, and he was consecrated in Trinity church, New York, September 16, 1804; received his D. D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He died shortly after his consecration.

Parker, Samuel, clergyman, born in Ashfield, N. H., April 23d, 1779, died in Ithaca, N. Y., March 24, 1866; graduated at Williams', 1806, and Andover Theological Seminary, 1810; was in charge of Congregational churches in New York and Massachusetts; believed to be a cousin of Abraham.

Parker, Thomas, clergyman; born in Wilkshire, England, June 8, 1595, died in Newbury, Mass., April 24, 1677. His father, Robert, was an eminent Puritan divine, who was exiled for his religious opinions. Thomas was a student at Oxford at that time, joined him in Holland, and was graduated at the University of Leyden in 1614; he subsequently returned to England, and in 1634 sailed for New England with his relatives, James and Nicholas Noyes, with whom he founded the town of Newbury, Mass.; the river on whose banks he first landed is named in his honor; was installed its first pastor and continued in that charge until his death. "The beauty, holiness, charity and hum-

bleness of his life," says Cotton Mather, "giving his people a perpetual and most lively commentary on his doctrine." With James Noyes, he also prepared students for Harvard, refusing all compensation for his services. During his later life he was totally blind, but could teach from memory. On one occasion certain clergymen, who were dissatisfied with his opinions, came to reason with him ; they addressed him in English, he replied in Latin ; they followed him in Latin, he replied in Greek ; they managed a reply ; he then spoke Arabic whither they durst not go. He was the author of several reliable theological works.

Thomas Parker, came from England in 1647 and obtained a grant for land the same year. This grant is of record at present in the Circuit Court, Isle-of-Wight Co., Virginia. The tract of land so patented, was called by him Macclesfield, during the Revolution, in honor of English connections. The will of said Thomas Parker is of record in Isle-of-Wight Court House. The will of Col. Josiah Parker was registered in 1810.

Nicholas Parker, Esq., was the father of Col. Josiah, and Lieut. Nicholas Parker, John Parker, and Copeland Parker. The records, preserved in the General Land Office, show that Col. Josiah Parker, "Pa., Continential Line," received 6,666 acres of land, and Lieut. N. Parker 2,000 acres. Records, preserved in Archives of State Department, mention Col. Josiah ; also Records of Pension Office, Josiah and Nicholas ; Archives of Senate of U.S. (the Secretary's office), Register's office, Richmond, Pa.

Col. Josiah's portrait was at Macclesfield about 1810, where mother saw it ; Mrs. Cowper inherited the china and almost everything. Gen. Thomas Bridger, Paymaster General of the British army, for North America, left a widow who was married to Col. Josiah, and is buried beside him, near Smithsfield, Penn. Col. Josiah commanded the 5th Penn. Regiment, and part of the time during the Revolution the 9th and 10th Regiments. Col. Josiah was not in the Continental Congress, but commenced his legislative services in 1789, with the

first Congress, and served in the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth, full twelve years; and voted to locate the seat of General Government on the Potomac River. The "History of Lord Chancellors of England," would furnish facts concerning Lord Chancellor Parker.

Col. Parker's only daughter married Capt. Cowper (the name is pronounced Cooper). The motto on family arms was "We dare to be wise," with leopard and serpent. The china was marked with the leopard, etc.

The portrait of Copeland Parker is at the Corner of Duke and Freemason Streets, Norfolk, Va.; the chair of Nicholas Parker, father of Josiah, is in my parlor.

Copied from a letter from Nicholas E. Jones, Linden P. O., Mont. Co., Maryland, Jan. 18, 1888.

From The Norfolk Herald, March 15, 1810: —

Died at Macclesfield, in Isle-of-Wight County, after a long indisposition, Col. Josiah Parker, an old Revolutionary officer, in the fifty-ninth year of age as a military officer; his services in the field will be long remembered, as they contributed in a great degree to procure his country's independence, to the truth of which, his old comrades in arms can testify.

In 1786 he was appointed Naval Officer in the port of Norfolk, one of the most lucrative offices in the gift of the State, which he resigned in 1788, under the impression that his services in the Councils of the Nation would be of more public utility, truly a patriotic character; he made all pecuniary considerations subservant to his country's good.

A family register, containing an accurate account of the births and deaths of Nicholas Parker and Ann, his wife, as well as of their several children and grandchildren, by their youngest son, Copeland Parker, with a sketch of the most important events of the life of the author, from his first set out on his pilgrimage through life to the end thereof, dedicated to his son, Nicholas Wilson Parker, July the 18th, 1800.

•

Here follows births and deaths of their several children : —

Josiah Parker, son of Nicholas and Ann Parker ; was born May 11, 1751, died March 15, 1810, aged 58 years, 10 months and 27 days.

Pamela Parker, daughter of Nicholas and Ann, his wife, was born December 10, 1753, and died 1790, aged 37 years, 2 months and 7 days.

Nicholas Parker, son of the aforesaid Nicholas and Ann Parker, was born January 1, 1756, and died (on his way to the Northward, at Leesburg, to join the Continental Army), on the 7th of June, 1777, aged 21 years, 5 months and 6 days.

Nicholas Parker, son of Nathaniel Parker, was born in the year of our Lord, October 31, 1722, and departed this life November 25, 1789, aged 67 years, 25 days.

Ann Copeland, wife of Nicholas Parker, was born in the year of our Lord, 1723, and departed this life November, 1776, aged fifty-three.

Nathaniel Parker, son of Nicholas and Ann Parker, was born February 8, 1758, and was lost at sea, October, 1782, aged 24 years and 8 months.

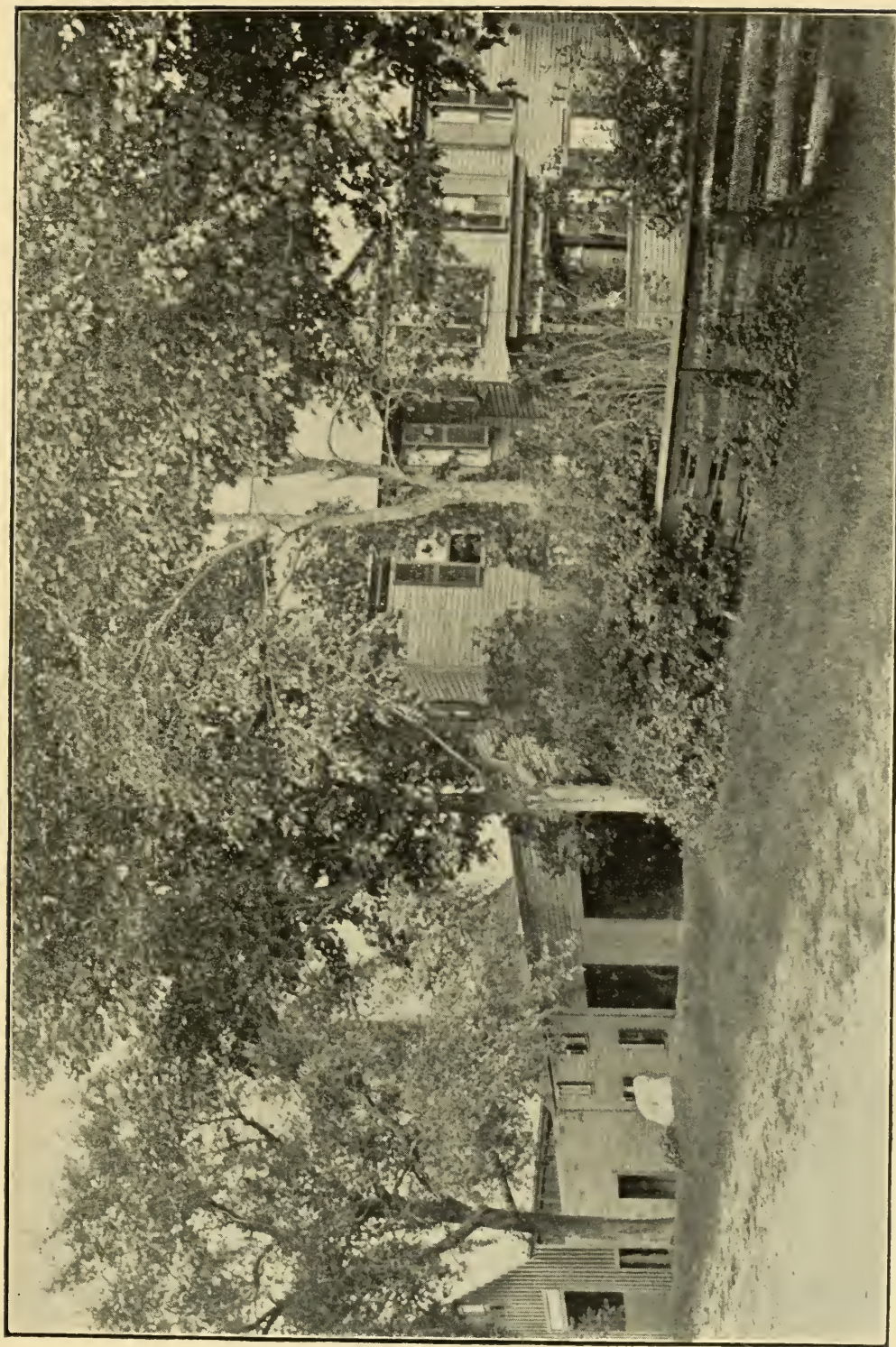
Holland Parker, daughter of Nicholas and Ann, his wife, was born March the 30th, 1763, and died February the 4th, 1786, aged 22 years, 10 months and 4 days.

Frederick Parker, was born about the year 1760, and died young.

John Parker, son of Nicholas and Ann Parker, was born May 24, 1765, and departed this life May 24, 1808, aged 43 years.

Copeland Parker, son of Nicholas and Ann Parker, was born Sunday, Feb. 7th, 1768, and departed this life on the 5th of December, 1830, aged 62 years, 9 months and 27 days.

Here ends the offsprings of Nicholas and Ann Parker : three only remain alive at this date, July 20th, 1800 ; and in 1809 only two.



PARKER HOMESTEAD, GROVELAND, MASSACHUSETTS.

(1630 Chestnut Street, PHILADELPHIA.
(January 27th, 1888.

My Dear Sir : —

I this day send you the "Churchman," with a notice of the old church in Smithfield, also some other information of the Parker family of Macclesfield. It was settled by Thomas Parker, and named by him, after his family, the Earl of Macclesfield, of England. He handed it down to his son, Nathaniel Parker, and he handed it down to his son Nicholas Parker, who was born October 31st, 1722, and departed this life November 25th, 1789, aged 67 years and 25 days. Josiah Parker, son of Nicholas and Ann Parker, was born May 11, 1751, died March 15th, 1810, age 58 years, 10 months and 20 days. Macclesfield remained in his possession until his death; he left only one daughter, who married Captain Cowper of the U. S. Navy: his descendents reside in Norfolk, V. A. Pamela Parker, daughter of Nicholas and Ann Parker, his wife, born December 10th, 1753, and died in 1790, aged 37 years, 2 months and 7 days. Nicholas Parker, son of Nicholas and Ann Parker, was born January 1st, 1756, and died on his way to the Northward, at Leesburg, to join the Continental army, on the 7th of June, 1779, aged 21 years, 5 months and 6 days. Nathaniel Parker, son of Nicholas and Ann Parker, was born February 1st, 1758, and was lost at sea October, 1782, aged 28 years and 8 months. Holland Parker, daughter of Nicholas and Ann Parker, was born March 30, 1763, and died in childbirth on February 4th, 1786, aged 22 years, 10 months and 4 days; she left a daughter, Rebecca McWilliams. Frederick Parker was born 1760, and died young. John Parker was born May 24th, 1765, and departed this life May 24th, 1808. Copeland Parker, son of Nicholas and Ann Parker, was born Sunday, February 7, 1768, and departed this life the 5th of December, 1830, aged 62 years, 9 months and 27 days. Here ends the offsprings of Nicholas and Ann Parker.

Copeland Parker, the father of Mrs. Glisson, was Surveyor of the Port of Norfolk, V. A., for thirty-five years. Enclosed you will see

when Thomas Parker settled in Macclesfield, and that it was in the Parker family two hundred and forty years. All the information that I send you is from Mr. Copeland Parker's journal. If I should obtain any other information as regards the family, I will drop you a line.

Yours very truly,

O. S. GLISSON,

Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy.

NEWARK, January 16, '88.

Dear Sir : —

“The search for one's ancestors, when one's name is Parker, I have found attended with very great difficulty ; I can get back to a certain point, the advent of the first of my family to New Jersey. I have found, besides, what village in New England he belongs to. But there I stop. So far. I mention this to show my sympathy with yourself, and to excuse the littleness of the information that I can give you.

I do not think that Abraham Parker of Bradford, was any blood relation of my ancestor. And as I think, the late Gov. Parker and I sprang through different sons, from the same original New Jersey ancestor. I am likewise of opinion that he was not related to the gentleman from whom you sprang.

My original Jersey ancestor was Elisha Parker, who, in 1657, was married at Barnstable, Mass., to Elizabeth, sister of the then Governor Hinckley. He removed to New Jersey about 1670, bringing two sons among other children : one was Thomas, the progenitor of Gov. Parker ; he left his father and settled in Monmouth Co., near Freehold. The other was Elisha, who remained with his father in Woodbridge. His son John removed to Perth Amboy, where he was part of his life a lawyer, the other part a merchant ; his son James resided there, and died in 1796. My father, also James Parker, was likewise a resident of Perth Amboy, where he died in 1868, at the age of 92. I am six generations away from the original Jersey settler ; but I cannot as

well find out from what part of England he came, or if he personally came. I think that he was brought here when under age, he and his brother, and that he came from Kent, but I have nothing worth relying upon as evidence.

What interests you in this that I write, is, that though the family has had among its names, Elisha, Thomas, Samuel, John, James, Robert, it never, to my knowledge, had an Abraham.

Now, as to an Abraham Parker : in the *Genealogical Dictionary of the first settlers of New England*, by Savage, Vol. III., p. 349, you will find all the Parkers named. The first named (alphabetically) is Abraham, of Woburn, married November 18, 1644, to Rose Whitlock, had two sons named Abraham, the first dying ; the second was born August, 1652, he removed to Chelmsford ; Abraham, undoubtedly this son, was a freeman in 1682 ; another of the same name was made a freeman in Chelmsford in 1690, there is a possibility that he was a son. These people married early.

Farmer, in his *Genealogical Register*, p. 216, describes this original Abraham, and seems definite that he was the progenitor of Judge Abel Parker of Cheshire Co., New Hampshire. But I suppose that I am carrying coals to New Castle, when I tell you all this.

There is a published genealogy of the Parkers of Rhode Island. whether that will help you, I can't tell. I have never seen the book,

If you know any English genealogy of the Parker family, I shall be glad if you will name it to me, for I am very anxious to get beyond the water. Several little circumstances led me to believe that the first Parker in my branch, who came here, was a Non Conformist Church of England minister, that he brought two nephews, Elisha and Robert, and that the Elisha is my progenitor. And I think that they came either from Kent or Wiltshire.

Anything I can do to help you I will very cheerfully, and thus concluding this garrulous letter, I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Very respectfully yours,

CORTLANDT PARKER.

GLISSON.—In our reference to restoration of the Old Brick Church, at Smithfield, erected in 1632 — the oldest church in Virginia — we omitted to mention the interesting fact, that the Col. Josiah Parker, to whose memory a memorial window will be set in the restored church, was an uncle of Mrs. O. S. Glisson, wife of Admiral Glisson, U. S. N., highly esteemed summer residents, both of Long Branch. Col. Josiah Parker was one of the Earl of Macclesfield Parkers; was a member of Washington's staff, and first member of Congress from that district. His brother, Copeland Parker, Esq., was father of Mrs. Glisson.

Long Branch News, Dec. 31, 1887.

(United States District Court.
(New York, December 13, 1888.

Dr. Wm. Thornton Parker :—

My Dear Sir :

My wife's grandmother was Mary Parker, the sister of your grandfather, Dr. Benj. Parker. Her name is in the list stated in your memorial pamphlet. She married Joseph Chadwick, Esq., of Bradford, and died at the family residence, about 1840, about two miles from the female academy. She had a large family of children; one was Dr. George Chadwick, who settled in Boston, and died there about 1843, I think. His widow and only surviving daughter, Mrs. John Richards now of Pittston, Pa., left my house this morning. The eldest daughter of Mary Parker Chadwick was Hannah Chadwick, who married Dr. Dustin Barrett of Hudson, N. H., as stated in the preface of the book sent you; their only child was my wife. This gives you my wife's genealogy on the Parker side; the line before Mary Parker being the same as yours, through Dr. Benj. Parker, and that, I presume, is all that you are interested in. The life of Theodore Parker, by Weiss, I think, gives his genealogy back into the English stock. My wife was at one time interested in the enquiry, what was the probable connection be-

tween the two? If you can establish that connection you will trace your line to noble stock.

Respectfully yours,

ADDISON BROWN,

Judge of the U. S. District Court in N. Y.

MEMENTO (HOUR GLASS) MORI (DEATH'S HEAD).

HERE LIES THE BODY OF
MRS. DEBORAH PARKER, DAUGHTER
OF CAPT. JONAS PRESCOTT, ESQ., AND
WIFE TO CAPT. SAMUEL PARKER OF
GROTON, WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
SEPTEMBER THE 27, A.D. 1724,
IN THE 30TH YEAR OF HER AGE.

HERE LIES BURIED
YE BODY OF YE
HONORABLE COLL.
BENJAMIN PRESCOTT,
ESQ., WHO
YE 3D ANNO DOM,
1738, AGE
42 YEARS, 7 M.
& 30 D.

The son of Jonas and Mary (Loker) Prescott, born Jan. 4, 1696 ; married June 11, 1718, Abigail Oliver, of Cambridge. Benjamin was the father of Col. Wm. Prescott, who commanded the American forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

HERE LIES BURIED
YE BODY OF MR.
JAMES PARKER,
WHO DEPARTED
THIS LIFE
JANUARY YE 21ST,
A.D. 1748-9,
IN YE 63d YEAR
OF HIS AGE.

The son of James and Mary (Parker) Parker, born March 24, 1686-7 : he married Abigail, daughter of Jonas and Mary (Loker) Prescott.

HERE LIES BURIED
YE BODY OF MR.
JAMES PARKER, JUN.,
WHO DEPARTED
THIS LIFE
JANUARY YE 29TH,
A.D. 1748-9,
IN YE 26TH YEAR
OF HIS AGE.

The son of James and Abigail (Prescott) Parker, born February 20th, 1722-3. His father's epitaph immediately precedes his own.

Extract from a speech of the writer of these Records, at a meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution, at Lexington, Mass., 1888 :

"Pausing, after reading these honorable records, we cannot fail to draw some inspiration from the lives of those who faced the dangers of the early settlers of the grand old Bay State. What did they not endure for us? Theirs was the dangerous and weary voyage ; theirs the

emigrant's privations and toils ; theirs the shrill war-hoop of the pitiless Indians : theirs the red glare of burning homes, and the anguish of wives and children in captivity, worse than death : theirs the discouragements from tyrannical and selfish foreign rule : theirs the manly courage and the well-nigh hopeless contest : theirs the long years of doubt, dismay, privation, danger and cruel suffering : and theirs was the sublime hope and trust in God's strong arm—who, should at last reward all this true worth, with the honor and the glory and the tremendous joy of triumph : theirs the honor of the builders of a nation, the creation of a Republic, the like of which the world has never seen—the existence of which brought terror to the princes, and hope to the paupers of the earth, and proclaimed with its shouts of triumphal strength, not only liberty throughout the land, but the promise that this Divine blessing should at last reach Earth's remotest portion. Oh, how can we honor those noble ancestors of ours enough? How dare we forget to be unmindful of the lessons they sought to teach us? How can we, enjoying the privileges their blood has purchased for us, ignore their wishes and oppose their wills? We see here and there the evidence of corrupting love of title and the pretensions of 'noble connections,'—all these things were foreign to them, and should be doubly so to their sons. What are our responsibilities as true and dutiful sons and loyal patriots? Certainly we have responsibilities, and most certainly we have duties clear and distinct to follow. Let us renew with their hallowed memories the patriotic pledges we inherit with our birthrights, and may every true Son of the American Revolution perform those sacred duties—even if self-denial must be something of the test required, and transmit to our sons the spirit of American fortitude and love of country, which has made our nation honored and respected in every clime."

"Spirit that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The monuments we raise to them and Thee."



IN Dr. Spofford's reminiscences of seventy years, he thus refers to Dr. Benjamin Parker: "then residing in town, and though not desirous of general practice, yet sometimes took charge of patients. He was a native of the town, but had resided twenty years in Virginia. He was a man of talent and a graduate of Harvard. Mutual respect and goodwill grew up between us. We lived in harmony as neighbors, as physicians, and as friends, for more than twenty-seven years. He passed off in a good old age, but even then his departure was to me a severe loss."

In 1820 the Revd. Dr. Perry and Dr. Jeremiah Spofford devised a plan which resulted in the founding of the East Bradford Groveland Academy. The subscription paper obtained subscribers for 132 shares, sufficient to purchase the land required and to erect the needed buildings. The Board of Trustees elected by the subscribers were Revd. G. B. Perry, Dr. Benjamin Parker, Moses Parker, Esq., Capt. George Savary, Eben Rollins, Phineas Parker, Jeremiah Spofford, Samuel Tenney and William Greenough.

In the spring of 1826 Capt. Day Mitchell, Sylvanus Hardy, Peter Parker, Dr. Benjamin Parker and Capt. Benjamin Parker and Dr. Jeremiah Spofford were associated in establishing the chain ferry across the Merrimack river at East Bradford (Groveland), where Milliken's ferry, Russell's ferry and Stephens' ferry were formerly kept for a century, but discontinued about 1797, after the erection of the Haverhill and Rocks bridges. The chain ferry in Lowell was in imitation of the Groveland ferry. It was built in 1822, before the rise of that city to manufacturing importance.

In speaking of the corporation organized in 1832 to purchase the farm of William Parker and lay out the land in streets and lots, Dr. Spofford states that the enterprise was unprofitable to the proprietors, and that this misfortune was rendered more so to some of the members by a resort to law, by one of the partners, to support a baseless claim. "But I take pleasure, in this opportunity, to do justice to Dr. Benj. Parker and his heirs. The doctor was a faithful partner during his life, assisting the concern by his money and credit, and his heirs kindly relinquished a just claim which might have been enforced without cause of complaint."

MASONIC DIPLOMA OF BENJ. PARKER, A. M., M. D.

Bro. W. T. Parker, M. D., has furnished us with a copy of a Masonic Diploma issued to his grandfather, Dr. Benjamin Parker of Virginia, in 1794. At that time the Royal Arch Degree was held in great respect, being regarded as the highest step in Masonic advancement. The document is as follows :

"Sit Lux et Lux Fuit."

In the East where light, peace and silence eternally reigneth.

The holy Lodge of St. John,
otherwise called

The Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge in Virginia,

To the most ancient and noble fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons
wherever assembled,—

GREETING :

We, the Master, Wardens and Secretary of the aforesaid Lodge, do Certify to all men enlightened throughout the World that our Brother Benjamin Parker, the bearer hereof, was duly and regularly made an entered Apprentice, afterwards admitted amongst us as a fellow Craft, and afterwards to the sublime degree of Master Mason, and having acquitted himself in those three degrees to the satisfaction of us and

the Brethren, we have given as a recompense of his Zeal, Diligence and Fidelity, the Super Excellent Degree of Royal Arch Mason and Initiated him into aforesaid Misteries.

We will and require that he be received by all our regular and loving Brethren wherever chance may cast him.

Given under our hands and seal of the Lodge, 3rd of July, A. D. 1794, A. L. 5794.

JOHN LUCAS,
Secretary.

[SEAL.]

JOHN I. ANSON,
Master.

FRANK RUSSIM,
D. M.

CARTER NICHOLAS,
S. W.

BILLY H. AVERY,
TYLER.



OCT 1 1956

